

SPORTING INCIDENTS

being

*A collection of forty-four plates of Coaching. Hunting.
Amateur Races, and Horses in the Show Ring.*

The designs by

W. S. Vanderbilt Allen

With an introduction by

Colonel William Jay

The whole described in text by

H. Milford Steele



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MR. T. SUFFERN TAILER'S COACH

AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

OCTOBER 1892



A jump with the Rockaway Hunt.



IN America the development of coaching has been retarded by the usually bad condition and insufficient number of the common roads. It has been stated that the country, as a whole, is less well provided with carriage-ways than any other area of equal general culture in the world. The growth of the country and the extension of its population have been so rapid that there has been no time for the construction of good roads, and the communities have mistakenly thought themselves too poor to create good roadways as public works; and, therefore, the toll-roads were built by corporations which acquired by their construction a right to tax every vehicle that used their roads. Even these roads were unsatisfactory and, naturally—for the corporations which built them were organized for profit—only extended over main lines of travel. The other, and common, roads of the rural districts were ignorantly constructed and are inefficiently maintained. Indeed, under the circumstances, it cannot well be different, for, as a rule, road making and so-called road mending are provided for by a tax payable in money or in time. Some pay the tax in money; but most of the population find it more convenient to attend an annual road-making picnic in person. A few days work a year, under ignorant supervision,

is thus performed by the voters in the country. Hillocks are scraped away, holes are filled with sod or dirt, and that is about all; while the construction and maintenance of good roads require the attention of an engineer of knowledge and wide training.

There has been much discussion of our common roads, and the evil that poor roads do has been indicated; but any growth to better things must be slow and can only follow greater public knowledge of the need for good roads and of the means by which they can be attained. As communication and commercial transportation have suffered so has coaching suffered, for amateur whips have been compelled to confine their drives within comparatively narrow limits.

There are, however, good roads near the larger cities, and one of the favorites of these is through the Central Park, New York, across the Harlem River, past Fordham and Morris Park, and the Pelham Road to the Country Club at Westchester, where the accompanying plate represents the coach Comet preparing for an early morning start.

The Comet, which was horsed by Mr. Eugene Higgins and Mr. T. Suffern Tailer, was established September 30, 1892, and the season continued until October 15th. On its first trip the coach carried, besides Mr. Tailer, whip, Colonel William Jay, Mr. Oliver Belmont, Mr. P. Lorillard, Jr., Mr. Delancey Kane, Mr. Reginald Rives, Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt, Mr. T. A. Havemeyer, Jr., Mr. Ogden Mills, and Mr. W. G. Tiffany.



ROAD COACH COMET

Horsed by Mr. Eugene Higgins and Mr. T. Suffern Tailer, and driven by Mr. Tailer

A morning start from the Country Club, Westchester, October, 1892





Painted by W.S. Vanderbilt, Allen.

Published in New York 1893 for Sporting Journalists.

Road Coach Corner,

Ordered by Mr. Eugene Higgins, and Mr. J. Tupper Butler, and driven by Mr. Butler.
 Leaving start from the Country Club, Westchester, October, 1892.

Printed by The Helotype Printing Co.

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THE ESSEX COUNTY HOUNDS

GOING TO COVER

At MORRISTOWN N. J. SEPTEMBER 1893



Philadelphia Road Coach Rapid—A Change of Horses.



THE Essex County Hunt was organized in 1872, with club-house and kennels at St. Cloud, in the Orange Mountains. In 1887 the introduction of polo, and a desire for more commodious quarters, led to a re-organization of the club, and the name was changed to the Essex County Country Club. Up to this time the various masters were E. M. Sadler, Charles A. Heckscher, Henry N. Munn, and E. P. Thebaud. Succeeding Mr. Thebaud, Mr. John A. Stewart, Jr., held the mastership until 1891, when the present incumbent, Mr. Charles Pfizer, Jr., was installed. Mr. Pfizer immediately proceeded to acquire the ownership of the pack, together with its rights to the territory and all the hunting paraphernalia of the club, with the understanding that the sport should be continued on a subscription basis, the club proper being relieved from all responsibility and having no further voice in the management of the hounds. As this move enabled many who were not members of the Country Club to join in the sport and thereby brought in a new following, principally from the Morristown district, it gave a great impetus to hunting. For several seasons the pack made its headquarters at Walton Cottage, and hunted in the vicinity of Morristown. This had the effect

of bringing about something of a boom, and the hunting men were tendered unbounded hospitalities.

During the past season the pack was located at the Seney Cottage in Bernardsville, and no doubt will continue to hunt in Somerset County for some years to come, as this district, together with the adjoining county, offers an almost unlimited area for the enjoyment of this sport, besides having the additional advantage of being within easy reach of the Morristown and Orange following.

The runs average two each week, although as many as four are often put in, and the field frequently numbers some twenty riders. Among the "regulars" are Messrs. Kissel, Whitney, Benjamin Nicoll, George Day, Willie Lord, Norman Henderson, Thomas Headley, John Dallett, C. A. Munn, George O'Reilly, Charles A. Heckscher, Arthur Lee, W. W. Tucker, J. R. Townsend, Jack Wilmerding, Gordon Paddock, Robert Stevens, and the Messrs. Pfizer. Occasionally a few ladies join the hunt, and among them Mrs. Archibald Alexander is seen most frequently.

The pack numbers some twenty-five couples, and the hunting stable fifteen head. The master, the huntsman, and the whip, who wear the regulation scarlet livery, with orange facings on the collar, comprise the field staff. The principal meets of late have been held at Morristown Green, Basking Ridge, Peapack, Green Village, Bernardsville, Roxitious, Cross Roads, New Vernon, Millington, Liberty Corner, and Washington Valley.



THE ESSEX COUNTY HOUNDS

Going to Cover

Morristown, N. J., September, 1893





Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was divided into two subgroups: the control group (CG) and the control group (CG). The EG was divided into two subgroups: the experimental group (EG) and the experimental group (EG). The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was divided into two subgroups: the control group (CG) and the control group (CG). The EG was divided into two subgroups: the experimental group (EG) and the experimental group (EG).

The Essex County Board of Supervisors,
 Westminster, N. H., September, 1893.

Printed by The Heliotype Printing Co.

STEEPLECHASE AT HEMPSTEAD FARMS

Glenfallon passing Vanity at the In-and-Out Jump

October 21, 1893



STEEPLECHASE AT HEMPSTEAD FARMS

GLENFALLON PASSING VANITY AT THE IN-AND-OUT JUMP

OCTOBER 21 1893



Dr. Seward Webb's Hackney Mare Her Majesty.



THE name indicates with accuracy the original character of steeplechasing, for in the early horse races of this kind the contestants made their way, as best they could, over whatever obstacle might intervene

from the starting-point to some distant church steeple chosen as the goal; but, occasionally, slight changes were made, the riders being, perhaps, directed to "leave the church on the left, pass to the right of the clump, and finish on the hill beyond."

Steeplechasing appears to have had its beginning in Ireland, and existing records of the sport there date back as far as the year 1752. An old manuscript, now in the possession of the O'Briens of Dwinoland, describes a match run in that year over four and a half miles of country between Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Edmund Blake, the course being from the church of Batteraut to the spire of St. Leger Church. There is no doubt that similar matches were frequent enough, but what is believed to be the first steeplechase under due regulations did not take place until 1803. Of this match neither course, figures, nor place are given beyond the statement that it was run in Ireland, that it was for a sweepstakes, and that the "added money" was a hogshead of claret, a pipe of port, and a quarter cask of rum.

It was a hindrance to the popularity of the sport that, unless the spectators were mounted and prepared to ride with the competitors, very little of the race could be seen. About 1830 the sport began to assume something of the form in which we know it. In 1836 a so-called steeplechase was run at the Liverpool meeting; the course was two miles long, over hurdles, walls, and water prepared for the purpose. Three years later was instituted the Grand National Steeplechase which remains the principal cross-country event of the year. The sport became increasingly popular, and important meetings were held at St. Albans, Aylesbury, Leamington, and other places.

In the autumn of 1866 the Grand National Hunt Committee was formed, and its rules were recognized and enforced to the great advantage of steeplechasing.

Amateur steeplechasing in America, especially since the organization of the American Hunt and Pony Racing Association, has enjoyed a fair measure of popularity. The contest represented in the accompanying plate took place at Hempstead Farms on October 21, 1893. It was the sixth of seven events, and was a handicap steeplechase of about three miles, open to all. The contestants were Westbury, Hiawasse, Glenfallon, Flattery, Vanity, and Bull Dawg, and the gentlemen riders were Mr. Page, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Haight. The judges were Mr. John S. Hoey, James T. Hyde, and Howland Leavitt. Glenfallon won by two hundred yards, with Vanity second. The plate represents Glenfallon passing Vanity at the in-and-out jump.



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Steeplechase at Hampstead Heath, 1893

Illustration showing the Steeplechase at Hampstead Heath, 1893.

THE MEADOW BROOK HUNT

MR. THOMAS HITCHCOCK JR. Master

At WESTBURY L. I. NOVEMBER 1892



Mr. Foxhall Keene on Duchess.



HERE is in "Country Contentments," by Gervase Markham, published in London in 1611, a definition of hunting as "a curious search or conquest of one beast over another, pursued by a naturall

instinct of enmitie, and accomplished by the diversities and distinctions of smells onelie, wherein nature equallie dividing her cunning, giveth both to the offender and offended strange knowledge both of offence and safety."

It is owing to this "diversity and distinction of smells onelie," that drag hunting, with all its advantages, is made possible. In this country, and especially on Long Island, where wire fences, impenetrable woods and bogs abound, hunting the natural fox is often attended with so many difficulties that the pleasures of the sport are in a great measure lessened. But in drag hunting the master can select a definite line of country for his run, and in deciding where he will "throw in" the hounds, he chooses, if he can, an open field which will afford an opportunity for a gallop to the first fence. He can avoid, to a great extent if he pleases, the treacherous and uncertain places, although there is no disposition to escape jumps because they are stiff or difficult to negotiate. The work of the dragman in laying the scent is a task that requires considerable judgment. He must be

governed by the nature and condition of the ground as to the quantity of scent that he shall use. If the soil is sandy and very dry much more is required than if it is wet and soft. But too much confuses the hounds, especially if there is any wind, and too little scatters them, causing frequent checks in the runs which are the more annoying, because one of the pleasantest features of drag hunting is that it affords the longest gallop in the shortest possible space of time.

Although drag hunting is better suited to the conditions of the country in the immediate vicinity of New York, natural hunting is also much in favor at Meadow Brook where, in spite of such formidable obstacles as barb-wire fences, cornfields, and the famous high, stiff fences of that country, the fox is enthusiastically hunted every season. The hunting here has been compared to a fine steeplechase; but the horses are in most cases thoroughbred, and the severe pace is more easily borne than it would be if coarser animals were used.

Among those who ride regularly with the Meadow Brook hounds are Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., the Master, Messrs. J. L. Kernochan, H. L. Herbert, H. V. R. Kennedy, Stanley Mortimer, Charles Carroll, J. A. Stewart, Jr., E. W. Roby, J. F. D. Lanier, and H. A. Page.

The accompanying plate represents a typical run. Mr. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., is the Master, and Mr. Rawlins Lowndes Cottenet, the Whip.



THE MEADOW BROOK HUNT

Mr. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., Master

At Westbury, L. I., November, 1892





*The Heliochrome Horse Race,
St. Albans, Vt., November, 1892.
Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Jr., Master.*



